

it did a lot of good.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please, ladies and gentlemen.

SENATOR LAMB: I have Senator Wesely's quote, he just said that. I'm holding you to it. This is a bill which...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) I'm sorry to nag, but it is awfully loud and noisy in here. Please. Senator Lamb, try it again.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, thank you. This is a bill that affects the Educational Service Units considerably. It does several things. One of the things it does is force all the counties into ESUs. Currently, as you may know, there are a number of counties that do not belong to an ESU because some years ago they had the opportunity to opt out. They voted to opt themselves out and they did that, and so for quite a few years now they have not been in an ESU. And I have two counties right in my district, that is Custer County and Blaine County, in the area where I live, in fact, we don't belong to an ESU but we have a cooperative in the area that does many of the things that the ESU does and I think it is a pretty good system because we have local control of it and the districts kick in enough money to pay for the things that they really think they need. But now under this bill we will be forced into an ESU, but there is an opt out provision and I am pleased that the opt out provision is there. For one year a school district can opt out. However, some of the schools in my district are not happy with the ESU boundaries so I have an amendment here which would change the ESU boundary in our area. I distributed to most of you, I think, a, about a four-page handout, which started out with a letter from the Broken Bow schools in regard to this situation and then followed up by a map and some other information. I'll just read what the Broken Bow schools say about this bill. The Broken Bow district is opposed to arbitrarily being assigned to Educational Service Unit #10. In our opinion, Service Unit #10 has grown too large to adequately serve all of the area it would encompass if the additional counties would be placed in that unit. Our district serves as the headquarters of an educational cooperative that consists of 17 districts in Blaine and Custer Counties. It is the belief of the districts that we serve that they could better be served from a service unit with headquarters more centrally located. Now if you'd look at the map that I distributed, you can see that the new boundaries of ESU 10 would be huge, great big section in the middle of the state, three, six, nine, eleven